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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/000,089	12/04/2001	Takahisa Hiraide	1075.1185	8026

21171 7590 05/15/2006

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EXAMINER

TRIMMINGS, JOHN P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2138

DATE MAILED: 05/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/000,089	Applicant(s) HIRAIDE ET AL.	
	Examiner John P. Trimmings	Art Unit 2138	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 9-31 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,6,9-29 and 31 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2,4,30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 January 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to the applicant's amendment dated 11/14/2005.

Claims 1-6 and 9-31 are pending.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9-29 and 31 have been allowed in a prior office action.

Claims 2, 4 and 30 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 over Barnhart.

Response to Amendment

1. In view of the applicant's submission of an English translation of the priority document, the examiner withdraws the rejection of Claims 2, 4 and 30 under 35 USC 103(a) to Barnhart. However, the examiner has provided below new grounds for rejection of said claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. Claims 2, 4 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Rearick, U.S. Patent No. 6715105.

As per Claims 2 and 30:

Rearick teaches a testing circuit/apparatus for an integrated circuit (see Abstract) comprising: a plurality of shift registers to which test patterns are inputted (FIG.3 172), configured with sequential circuit elements inside said integrated circuit (FIG.1,2,3 scan chains); a mask (FIG. Mask 105) to convert an indeterminate value in outputs from said shift registers into a state value of '0' or "1" to mask said indeterminate value (column 6 lines 11-17); and an output verifier (FIG.3 MISR 104) to verify output results in which

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said indeterminate value is masked by said mask (see FIG.3), said output results not containing said indeterminate value (column 6 lines 6-17). The mask, being a binary mask, changes the input to the MISR to a "1" or a "0" during operation, which are the only two possibilities of a binary mask.

As per Claim 4:

Rearick further teaches the testing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said output verifier includes a compressing means for compressing said masked output results (FIG.3 MISR and Summary of Invention).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John P. Trimmings whose telephone number is (571) 272-3830. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert DeCady can be reached on (571) 272-3819. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



John P Trimmings
Examiner
Art Unit 2138

jpt



GUY LAMARRE
PRIMARY EXAMINER